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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Greece

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-fifth session from 2 to 13 May 2016. The review of Greece was held at the 4th meeting on 3 May 2016. The delegation of Greece was headed by the Secretary-General for Transparency and Human Rights, Kostis Papaioannou. At its 11th meeting, held on 9 May 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on Greece.

2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Greece: the Netherlands, the Russian Federation and South Africa.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Greece:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/25/GRC/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/25/GRC/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/25/GRC/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Afghanistan, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Greece through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. Greece stated that the national report had been drafted in an inclusive process involving ministries and consultations with civil society and the National Commission for Human Rights. Greece would submit a midterm progress report on the implementation of the recommendations it supported, as it had done in the first cycle.

6. As a former chairperson of the National Commission, the head of delegation observed how the institution had grown in respect and influence and been strengthened through recent legislation.

7. Important steps had been made, but much more needed to be done. The dialogue would be guided by critical self-assessment.

8. Greece had experienced a severe economic crisis. Following negotiations with the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund, policies responding to the crisis had largely consisted of extreme austerity measures. The impact of the recession had been significant. In 2014, 36 per cent of the population had been at risk of poverty or social exclusion; gross domestic product had fallen by 25 per cent; the unemployment rate had reached 24.4 per cent; and youth unemployment had

reached 49.8 per cent. The National Commission had made recommendations and stressed the negative effect of austerity on human rights and democratic institutions.

9. While implementing the most recent financial agreement, Greece had striven to protect the rights of vulnerable persons. In March 2015, a law had been adopted to ensure provision of basic goods and services to persons and families living in extreme poverty. The ongoing pension reform aimed at developing a fair and rational social security system. Financial constraints could not be used as an excuse for shortcomings in human rights protection and every effort was being made to give full effect to all international human rights conventions. Nevertheless, the case of Greece presented proof that undermining economic and social rights could not leave civil and political rights intact.

10. As a consequence of the economic crisis, the gender gap had widened in the labour market and unemployment and inactivity rates had risen. The National Programme for Substantive Gender Equality 2010-2015 had been designed before the escalation of the economic crisis and had managed to only partially mitigate the effect of the crisis on gender equality. Laws adopted in early 2016 had established health coverage for all uninsured individuals, including members of vulnerable groups, giving them free access to the public health system, and promoted easier access to medical care and treatment at zero or near-zero cost.

11. The reception of more than 1 million refugees and irregular migrants since the beginning of 2015 had had a direct effect on Greece. Greeks, who themselves were suffering financial distress, had welcomed them and addressed their immediate needs, despite voices all over Europe calling for closed borders, which, inter alia, had resulted in further deaths at sea. Racist attacks had not increased during that period, although Greece remained fully aware of the danger of rising racism and xenophobia, as was the case in many European countries.

12. Unilateral measures resulting in border closures along the Western Balkans migratory route had left around 55,000 people stranded in Greece. Greece would not cease to uphold fundamental rights and principles and address its humanitarian obligations. The coastguards had done their utmost in search and rescue operations; national stakeholders and the European Union had provided additional resources for that purpose. The delegation provided statistics on the rescues in 2015 and 2016, including on those who had regrettably lost their lives attempting to cross the Aegean. Receptions centres had been created in the Eastern Aegean islands and nationwide, while some people benefited from rental subsidies and host family programmes. Regrettably, many people had insisted on staying around Eidomeni owing to misinformation. They would be moved in May, without use of force, when the necessary reception camps were ready.

13. Greece had adopted the legal framework for the implementation of the March 2016 agreement between the European Union and Turkey. The numbers of asylum requests under consideration and the pre-registration requests for asylum were growing. The task was enormous, given the limited resources and the growing pressure to close borders and speed up procedures. However, Greece would not undermine the human rights principles that guaranteed the right to seek asylum and prohibited collective expulsions. Most of the difficulties arose from contradictions in European policy on migration and asylum. Constant efforts were being made to increase the capacity of the Asylum Service.

14. Protecting unaccompanied minors was of the utmost priority. Serious challenges remained, but the relevant legislation was under review. The new framework provided for a registry of guardians with specific duties and obligations who would be inspected by a monitoring body.

15. Greece attached importance to the integration of refugees and migrants, but its high unemployment rate hindered their access to the labour market. Regrettably, the high inflows had meant that more resources had had to be allocated to first reception than to integration. Beyond the assistance from the European Union, Greece had spent over €1.8 billion from its national budget and had been hiring personnel especially for the First Reception and Asylum Services. Such a crisis could only be addressed through international cooperation and burden sharing, but Greece was concerned that not all its European friends shared that principle.

16. Racist violence had been a concern, particularly in 2012/13. The authorities had reacted with measures including the strengthening of legislation and the creation of five special prosecutors for racist crimes. Parliament had been enabled to suspend State financing of political parties whose officials were provisionally detained for racist crimes, and the trial of members of the Golden Dawn party was ongoing.

17. A National Board against Racism and Intolerance had been established and an action plan would be forthcoming. A hate speech monitoring mechanism was also planned. New police units and offices had been established to investigate acts of racist violence and had received training.

18. The accountability of law enforcement personnel was a top priority. An office responsible for handling alleged instances of abuse had been established in law, but it was not yet operational owing mainly to a lack of resources. Greece was studying alternative ways to ensure that the mechanism was effective and independent. Impunity could not be tolerated.

19. A legislative review of equality and non-discrimination policies was almost complete. Amendments enacted had included reinforcing the competences of the Ombudsman and the explicit inclusion of "gender identity" and "gender characteristics" as grounds for non-discrimination.

20. Access to justice was ensured for victims of discrimination through measures such as free legal aid and fee exemptions for those on low incomes.

21. Greece had passed a law extending civil partnerships to include same-sex couples. The higher age of consent for male homosexual acts had been abolished and legislation on legal gender recognition was being considered.

22. A National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child was being drawn up, as was a national strategic plan for deinstitutionalization, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Minors had already been transferred out of the Lehaina centre, and experts were developing plans for the care of the other residents. Other measures were under way to reform foster care and adoption and to review the legal framework for State and private care institutions.

23. The situation in detention facilities remained a concern, but measures had been taken and the prison population had declined. Greece was engaging with expert European bodies to develop a strategic plan on prisons. The Ombudsman had stressed the need for a more holistic approach and the Ministry of Justice had adopted many of the Ombudsman's proposals.

24. Access to counsel was ensured from the moment of deprivation of liberty. A lawyer was always appointed for those accused of a felony and for minors. Free legal aid was available to those on low incomes and vulnerable persons, such as victims of trafficking or domestic violence. Challenges remained regarding the speed of judicial proceedings, but a number of legislative amendments had been adopted to accelerate proceedings.

25. While Greece was concerned that domestic violence had reached alarming proportions, it was encouraged that women were breaking their silence and that their reports might lead to prosecutions. A national programme in the field had contributed to increasing the visibility of domestic violence as a crime.

26. Greece noted that the economic crisis had disproportionately affected vulnerable groups such as the Roma and a series of measures would be implemented in almost all municipalities.

27. Human rights education and citizenship education were priorities and the refugee inflows had made child refugees' and young people's access to education imperative.

28. Greece intended to address proposals to ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights favourably and would actively consider ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure in the context of the National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child. A working group was preparing legislative proposals for the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. Accession to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness would be considered in due course. The process for ratifying the amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression had been initiated.

29. Greece stressed that freedom of expression and association were fully protected, without discrimination. In Thrace, where the Muslim minority lived, numerous minority associations had been registered by the courts and operated unimpeded. Greece was considering appropriate ways to execute three judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in which violations of the right to freedom of association had been found.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

30. During the interactive dialogue, 88 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

31. The United Arab Emirates welcomed the achievements of Greece, including the recent law on the establishment of a National Board against Racism and Intolerance.

32. The United Kingdom welcomed the steps taken to implement the recommendations from the first review, the establishment of the National Action Plan on Human Rights, the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the recognition of same-sex unions.

33. The United States of America raised concern about instances of discrimination against members of the Muslim minority in Thrace and against Roma, as well as hate speech by public officials against members of religious and other minorities.

34. Uruguay noted the efforts of Greece in the face of the economic crisis and welcomed the development of a new action plan on gender equality.

35. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela commended Greece for the measures it had taken to provide the poorest families with free electricity, rental subsidies, food and a minimum income, and for its efforts to address the migration crisis.

36. Albania congratulated Greece on the presentation of its report.

37. Algeria welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights and of the law establishing a National Board against Racism and Intolerance.

38. Argentina commended Greece for ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and praised its efforts in the face of the migration crisis.

39. Armenia praised Greece for its reception of hundreds of thousands of refugees, despite its economic challenges. Armenia highlighted the adoption of a strong legal framework to combat racism.

40. Australia acknowledged the steps taken to reduce overcrowding in prisons and the stricter penalties that had been introduced for discrimination and incitement to violence. It remained concerned by reports of gender discrimination and hate crimes.

41. Austria stressed the need to pay particular attention to the accommodation provided to unaccompanied minors in the refugee context. It welcomed efforts to combat domestic violence.

42. Bahrain welcomed the reforms Greece had put in place and its reception of refugees, despite the economic crisis, and stressed the need to share responsibility for tackling the refugee crisis.

43. Bangladesh regretted that its recommendation on migrants' rights in the first review had not been accepted. It referred to some of the concerns of the treaty bodies, including on the use of force and ill-treatment.

44. Belarus was concerned at the lack of progress in addressing gender equality since the first review. It called on Greece to address migrants' working conditions, especially in agriculture.

45. Belgium welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. It remained concerned by the detention of unaccompanied minors and the security conditions in some reception centres.

46. Bosnia and Herzegovina highlighted the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto. It inquired about institutional care facilities for children, especially those with disabilities.

47. Botswana welcomed the 2014 law strengthening the country's anti-racism legislation and the creation of the Racist Violence Recording Network, but was concerned at reports of ill-treatment of children.

48. Brazil commended the extension of the law on civil partnerships to same-sex couples and the recent ratifications of international instruments. It encouraged further efforts to fight xenophobia and discrimination.

49. Bulgaria welcomed the elaboration of the National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child and the appointment of special prosecutors to investigate racist crimes.

50. Canada noted with satisfaction the adoption of a law recognizing same-sex civil partnerships and encouraged Greece to extend full legal equality to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

51. Chile commended Greece for its commitment to human rights through the consolidation of its legal and institutional frameworks. It noted the exceptional influx of migrants and asylum seekers.

52. China welcomed the adoption of a legal framework to combat racism and racial discrimination. It praised the authorities' rescue at sea of hundreds of thousands of migrants and their reception.

53. Costa Rica praised the inhabitants of Lesbos on their reception of persons escaping war. It expressed concerns about the excessive use of force by the police.

54. Cuba congratulated Greece for having continued to meet its human rights commitments, despite the migration crisis. Its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocol thereto and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance were examples of that.

55. Cyprus commended Greece for its principled and humane approach to refugees and migrants. It welcomed the legal framework to combat racism, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance.

56. The Czech Republic thanked Greece for the responses to its advance questions.

57. Ecuador commended Greece for its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocol thereto and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, for its new legislation to combat racism and for the National Action Plan on Human Rights.

58. Egypt praised the positive developments since the last review, including the adoption of a National Action Plan on Human Rights and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

59. Finland commended the efforts made to address shortcomings in the asylum management system, including the creation of the First Reception Service, and encouraged Greece to continue its efforts.

60. France welcomed the commitments made by Greece, in particular the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

61. Georgia welcomed the submission of a midterm implementation report regarding the accepted recommendations from the first cycle and encouraged the submission of a similar report during the second cycle.

62. Germany commended achievements such as the adoption in 2015 of a law extending civil unions to same-sex couples. It was concerned about the detention conditions of migrants.

63. Ghana commended Greece for rescuing more than 100,000 refugees and migrants at sea and for the assistance extended to refugees and migrants on the Greek islands.

64. Guatemala welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocol thereto. It expressed concern about the reports of increased discrimination against migrants, asylum seekers and Roma owing to the economic crisis.

65. The Holy See acknowledged the efforts of Greece to guarantee human rights through the National Action Plan on Human Rights. It praised efforts to prevent trafficking in persons.

66. Hungary encouraged Greece to develop a national strategy to combat racism, welcomed the National Action Plan on Human Rights and asked about the practical measures being taken to implement it.

67. Iceland acknowledged that Greece had maintained standards despite the simultaneous crises and noted that Greece should not face a disproportionate share of the responsibility to meet the needs of refugees and migrants.

68. India welcomed the recent steps to combat racism, the adoption of the new action plan on gender equality and the plan to revamp the public benefit employment scheme. India requested further information on those issues and on steps taken to address the situation of undocumented migrants and asylum seekers.

69. Indonesia commended Greece for its efforts to promote human rights, despite the economic crisis, by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and by the drafting national action plans.

70. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the steps taken by Greece to mitigate the impact of the economic crisis and austerity measures on the most disadvantaged.

71. Iraq commended the achievements of Greece in the areas of women's and children's rights and called upon it to uphold human rights principles in addressing other challenges.

72. Ireland appreciated the challenges that Greece faced in responding to the needs of the unprecedented number of migrants and refugees. The crisis required close cooperation with the European Union, the United Nations and civil society.

73. Israel commended Greece for its efforts to alleviate the negative impact of the economic crisis and for its legislative framework to fight against racial discrimination, xenophobia and Holocaust denial.

74. Italy encouraged Greece to maintain its commitment to protecting economic, social and cultural rights while mitigating the effects of the economic crisis, and commended its assistance to migrants.

75. Greece noted that major reform to its asylum system had resulted in a process acknowledged to be of high quality and a recognition rate of approximately 50 per cent. Greece was currently receiving more asylum claims than wealthier European Union member States. Efforts to improve reception facilities were constant, especially for unaccompanied minors. Alternatives to detention were being implemented on the islands.

76. Greece highlighted that the child protection system was being restructured, with emphasis on developing support services for children and families, preventing institutionalization and reinforcing foster parenting, including for children with disabilities. In 2016, the number of children placed with families instead of in institutions was expected to be double that of previous years. A national strategy on social inclusion, which had been submitted to the European Commission, provided the foundations to tackle child poverty and a number of transfer payments and programmes were in place for families of children living in poverty.

77. Greece noted that the positive impact of some of its policies had been seen as most students with disabilities were currently being supported within mainstream programmes.

78. Greece stressed that racism was recognized as one of the most important issues affecting human rights in Greece and in many European and non-European countries. The delegation gave an overview of the challenges Greece faced in that regard and its responses in terms of legislation and State policy.

79. Greece stressed that one group of persons, the Muslim minority in Thrace, was considered to be a minority under the terms of the Treaty of Peace, signed at Lausanne, July 24, 1923. It consisted of three distinct groups of persons of Turkish, Pomak and Roma origin. Implementation of the Treaty was based on modern human rights standards. Greece fully respected the principle of individual self-identification, however, its position was that a State's decision to recognize a group as a minority and provide its members with specific minority rights in addition to those in human rights treaties had to be based on objective

facts and criteria. Members of groups not officially recognized as minorities fully enjoyed their rights under the human rights treaties.

80. Greece stated that members of the Muslim minority in Thrace were free to address either the civil courts or the local muftis concerning sharia law in family and inheritance matters. The law provided that the courts should not enforce muftis' decisions that were contrary to the Constitution or regional and international human rights treaties.

81. Greece stressed the challenges facing the police in providing European Union external border security, managing the mixed migration flows and meeting the country's human rights obligations. The economic situation had a direct impact on the resources available. Great humanity was being shown, particularly by officers who risked their lives rescuing migrants who were at risk of drowning. Both the police and the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union were monitoring any cases of ill-treatment or violations of the principle of non-refoulement.

82. Jamaica commended the national action plans on human rights and children's rights, the establishment of the National Board against Racism and Intolerance and the reform of national policies governing asylum seekers.

83. Kenya welcomed the national action plans on human rights, children's rights and on the reform of the asylum system and migration management, and the recent ratifications of international instruments.

84. Lebanon appreciated the promotion and protection of human rights since the last review, despite the challenges of the economic and refugee crises, and commended the rescue and reception of refugees.

85. Libya welcomed progress on recommendations from the last review and the measures to address social disparities, particularly Law 4320/2015 on families in extreme poverty and the guaranteed minimum income scheme.

86. Malawi applauded efforts to eliminate human trafficking and progress in prosecuting labour trafficking offences. Malawi asked the international community to support Greece in addressing the financial crisis and hosting migrants.

87. Malaysia acknowledged efforts to protect vulnerable groups, migrants and persons with disabilities, following ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, but noted the remaining challenges concerning racism, discrimination and access to education.

88. Maldives welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and the National Action Plan on Human Rights. It encouraged efforts to assist refugees.

89. Mexico praised the protection given to vulnerable groups, policies on access to basic services and employment for families in extreme poverty, and the efforts to receive refugees and asylum seekers.

90. Montenegro noted concerns about the impact of the economic crisis on discrimination against vulnerable groups. It encouraged Greece to ensure decent living conditions in reception and detention centres for migrants and asylum seekers.

91. Morocco welcomed the law providing for a National Board against Racism and Intolerance and commended the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the designation of the Ombudsman as the national preventive mechanism.

92. Namibia recognized the economic crisis in Greece and trusted that the redesigned European Union asylum policy would alleviate the increasing migrant and refugee crisis.

93. Nepal noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto, and the development of national action plans on human rights and children's rights. It appreciated the efforts to promote migrants' integration and to combat racism.

94. The Netherlands was pleased that Greece had enacted a law allowing civil partnership between same-sex couples, but noted that it did not grant same-sex couples the same rights as heterosexual couples.

95. Nigeria welcomed the circular on the right of every child living in Greece to enrol in school. It expressed concern at the absence of a national plan against racism.

96. Norway commended the efforts of Greece to handle the migration influx and emphasized the responsibility of all European countries to improve the situation for refugees and migrants in Europe.

97. Pakistan noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Optional Protocol thereto and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. It asked Greece to complete the construction of a mosque in Athens to allow religious minorities freedom of religion and belief.

98. Panama noted that the migration crisis, as well as the economic crisis, was affecting human rights in Greece, and that in response, a long-term, integrated strategy was needed at the European level.

99. Peru highlighted the efforts of Greece to consider human rights, particularly those of vulnerable groups, while implementing austerity measures, and to provide a dignified reception for refugees and migrants.

100. The Philippines appreciated the protection mechanisms relating to migrants. It agreed that Greece needed to prioritize completion of the National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child.

101. Poland was aware of financial constraints and acknowledged efforts to address social inequalities. It welcomed the new laws and policies on acts of violence against foreigners.

102. Portugal welcomed the protection of the right of every child living in Greece to enrol in school, regardless of residence status, and commended the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

103. Qatar commended the implementation of the recommendations from the previous review, the creation of national action plans, especially for children, efforts to combat racism and intolerance, and the creation of refugee reception centres.

104. The Republic of Korea hoped that the minimum essential economic and social rights would be safeguarded for the vulnerable, regardless of the economic reforms.

105. Honduras appreciated the progress made by Greece in the protection of asylum seekers and irregular migrants, and with regard to the integration of Roma in the country.

106. The Republic of Moldova asked about the evaluation of the National Action Plan on Human Rights, and whether the national referral mechanism for victims of trafficking was fully operational.

107. Romania appreciated the hospitality Greece was providing for refugees and migrants. It acknowledged the legislative framework to combat racism and related intolerance and the establishment of the National Board against Racism and Intolerance.

108. The Russian Federation welcomed the efforts of Greece to rescue thousands of refugees off the island coasts and the measures for the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

109. Senegal commended the adoption of Law 4320/2015 ensuring the provision of basic goods and services to persons and families living in extreme poverty and the ratification of several human rights instruments.

110. Sierra Leone urged Greece to seek ways to protect the rights of undocumented migrants and asylum seekers more effectively and agreed that European Union asylum policy should be reviewed.

111. Slovakia commended Greece for ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto and invited it to ensure their effective implementation. Slovakia encouraged Greece to pursue its work on deinstitutionalization in favour of family-based care for children.

112. Slovenia welcomed the recent ratifications of international instruments and the efforts of Greece to respect the rights of refugees and to protect unaccompanied children.

113. South Africa commended Greece for the assistance it had extended to refugees and migrants and its adoption of the legislative framework to fight racism and related intolerance, and encouraged it to continue those efforts.

114. Spain noted the changes in the situation in Greece during the reporting period and praised the country's efforts to demonstrate its commitment to human rights, despite the difficulties.

115. The State of Palestine commended the efforts to implement the recommendations from the first review and noted improvements in the implementation of the right to education.

116. Sweden noted the unprecedented increase in the numbers of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants entering Greece and that the problems increased when people were denied the possibility of leaving Greece.

117. Switzerland welcomed the significant steps that had been taken to implement the recommendations Greece had accepted in the first review cycle.

118. Tajikistan noted the efforts of Greece to protect human rights, particularly the preparation of the national action plan on human rights, despite the economic crisis.

119. Thailand commended the adoption of various human rights actions plans and encouraged Greece to continue its efforts to integrate the Roma.

120. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia regretted that Greece had not implemented the recommendation from the first review on executing the European Court of Human Rights judgments concerning the registration of Macedonian minority associations.

121. Timor-Leste welcomed the creation of the Children's Ombudsman and wished to hear more on the establishment of the National Board against Racism and Intolerance.

122. Togo noted that despite the economic crisis, Greece had adopted laws and measures to counter the rise of racist violence and the surge in attacks against migrants.

123. Turkey made recommendations.

124. Uganda noted the adoption of national action plans on human and children's rights and the establishment of the National Board against Racism and Intolerance.

125. Ukraine noted the measures to protect the rights of vulnerable persons from the effects of the economic recession, and the proactive stance of Greece in advocating the rights of journalists in international forums.

126. Greece noted that the austerity measures it had had to take within the framework of the programme of assistance of the European Central Bank and the International Monetary Fund had been found by international and European treaty bodies to be in violation of human rights treaties. It outlined the measures it had taken to protect the most vulnerable sections of the population, noting its investments to address unemployment, particularly for young people, women and the long-term unemployed, to deal with housing and poverty and to reorganize the social policy system. Furthermore, Law 4368/2016 provided for free access to the public health system for uninsured individuals and members of vulnerable groups.

127. Greece stressed that the use of the term "Macedonian" to refer to a small number of persons who lived in the northern Greek region of Macedonia and spoke, besides Greek, a Slavic idiom, without any qualifier reflecting their Slav-oriented identity, infringed upon the rights and identity of more than 2.5 million Greek-Macedonians who used the adjective to denote their regional and cultural provenance. Those persons could nevertheless freely express their views, organize cultural events and speak their idiom. In relation to the Muslim minority, persons were free to declare their origin, but the attempt to subsume Pomak and Roma persons under a Turkish identity was not acceptable. Greece was firmly committed to upholding the right to education of the Muslim minority in Thrace and since the 1990s, a programme to upgrade their education had been in place.

128. The Asylum Service was identifying unaccompanied minor migrant children and attempting to determine if there was a parent or other person responsible for each child. Greece was trying to find more reception centres for them and to upgrade the relevant procedures.

129. Greece had taken special measures for the education of the Roma. However, there were still individual reports of Roma children who received education in segregated schools. Some had been dealt with successfully, but others needed further interventions and the involvement of the whole community.

130. The new national action plan on gender equality was under preparation. The priorities included social cohesion, poverty eradication and addressing the migration crisis with a gender perspective.

131. Greece had stepped up its efforts to combat trafficking in persons, especially through the establishment of the Office of the National Rapporteur. It provided further details on its actions.

132. The implementation of the National Action Plan on Human Rights (2014-2016) would be evaluated at the end of 2016 and a follow-on plan would be prepared in consultation with the public and civil society.

133. The refugee crisis had offered Greek society collective self-esteem: the lost belief in solidarity had been regained and local communities had demonstrated it. Greece intended to use the challenges mentioned in the interactive dialogue not as an excuse, but as a means of understanding reality. It assured the meeting that the recommendations would be widely disseminated and thanked the participants in the discussion.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

134. **The recommendations listed below have been examined by Greece and enjoyed the support of Greece:**

134.1 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Montenegro) (Italy) (Portugal);**

134.2 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Montenegro) (Portugal);**

134.3 **Ratify and domesticate the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Kenya);**

134.4 **Ratify the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Ghana);**

134.5 **Consider ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Georgia);**

134.6 **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Belgium) (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (Bulgaria) (Italy) (Netherlands) (Portugal) (Slovenia) (Thailand) (Turkey);**

134.7 **Intensify efforts to combat violence against women and domestic violence and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Austria);**

134.8 **Develop national human rights indicators, as suggested by OHCHR, as an instrument that allows for a more precise and coherent evaluation of its national human rights policies (Portugal);**

134.9 **Ensure the adequate financial resources for the national human rights institutions (Poland);**

134.10 **Develop, in collaboration with the National Commission for Human Rights, an operational and comprehensive human rights strategy (Ukraine);**

134.11 **Finalise and implement a National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child as a matter of priority; in the meantime, put measures in place to protect those who are vulnerable such as unaccompanied children and children with disabilities (Botswana);**

134.12 **Finalize, as soon as possible, the National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child and address, as a matter of priority, the issue of unaccompanied children (China);**

134.13 **Complete the elaboration of the National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child and address, as a matter of priority, the issue of unaccompanied children (Cyprus);**

134.14 **Adopt and effectively implement a national action plan on the rights of the child with special attention to protection of the rights of children in institutional care and children with disabilities (Czech Republic);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

134.15 Expedite the process of finalization of the National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child (Georgia);

134.16 Expedite the adoption of a National Action Plan to protect the rights of children (Maldives);

134.17 Prioritise the review and reform of the legislative framework to fully safeguard the rights of unaccompanied minors, including through finalisation of its National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child (Jamaica);

134.18 Finalize the National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child, attaching the necessary importance to the issue of unaccompanied children (Romania);

134.19 Finalise the National Action Plan on the Rights of the Child and address, as a matter of priority, the issue of unaccompanied children (South Africa);

134.20 Strengthen human rights education and training (Morocco);

134.21 Take appropriate measures to improve inclusion and social diversity, by conducting public campaigns on racism and xenophobia and include awareness-raising and education in the field of human rights in the curriculum of public schools (Honduras);

134.22 Undertake further initiatives to address hate speech directed against members of vulnerable groups, and ensure sufficient focus on this topic in the education system (Norway);

134.23 Conduct public campaigns on racism and xenophobia; and include human rights education in the educational curriculum of public schools (Nigeria);

134.24 Provide human rights training to law enforcement officials to end incidents of police brutality and excessive use of force (Sierra Leone);

134.25 Include the issue of domestic violence in regular education and training courses for police officers, prosecutors and judges (Slovenia);

134.26 Continue the promotion and the protection of human rights, particularly for women, children and vulnerable groups in the society (Bahrain);

134.27 Continue to take measures to protect the rights of children, women and refugees (Pakistan);

134.28 Continue efforts aimed at promoting rights of children, women, persons with disabilities (Ukraine);

134.29 Accelerate the adoption of a new comprehensive plan of action on gender equality and ensure its effective implementation (Belarus);

134.30 Adopt and fully implement a new action plan on the gender equality for the next period lasting till 2020 (Slovakia);

134.31 Undertake further measures to realize its policies in relation to gender equality (Tajikistan);

134.32 Continue to strengthen measures to promote the economic empowerment of women particularly in the time of the financial crisis (United Arab Emirates);

134.33 **Continue the efforts to promote gender equality, with regard to the high female unemployment rates (Bulgaria);**

134.34 **Take additional measures in order to fully implement the national legislation securing gender equality (Iraq);**

134.35 **Continue to strengthen measures to promote tolerance and respect for cultural diversity and to counter prejudice, stereotypes, discrimination, racism, and Islamophobia (United Arab Emirates);**

134.36 **Take further actions to combat incitement to hatred and racist crimes against foreign nationals, including by promoting a positive narration on international migration and pursuing the National Action Plan against Racism and Intolerance (Malaysia);**

134.37 **Ensure that all crimes committed with a discriminatory motive are fully and effectively investigated and prosecuted (Australia);**

134.38 **Effectively investigate hate crimes and violent attacks against individuals from vulnerable and marginalized groups, including ethnic and religious minorities; prosecute perpetrators as well (Canada);**

134.39 **Continue to fight against racist crimes and hate speech (China);**

134.40 **Investigate all cases of xenophobia, violence and attacks against migrants, including the involvement of law enforcement officers in such crimes (Ghana);**

134.41 **Investigate all cases of violence and xenophobic attacks, including any type of participation in these crimes by the forces of public order and of the staff of detention centres (Guatemala);**

134.42 **Investigate all cases of xenophobic violence and attacks against migrants, including any law enforcement involvement in those crimes (Namibia);**

134.43 **Investigate all cases of xenophobic violence (Iceland);**

134.44 **Fully implement the already existing and recently amended legislation to combat racism and xenophobia (Israel);**

134.45 **Continue efforts to address hate speech against refugees and migrants (Lebanon);**

134.46 **Investigate all cases of xenophobic violence and attacks against migrants (Nigeria);**

134.47 **Implement stricter policies aimed at ending racial violence as perpetuated against migrants and foreigners (Sierra Leone);**

134.48 **Take additional measures to combat violence related to racial discrimination (France);**

134.49 **Increase the measures for combatting intolerance and xenophobic and racist violence (Peru);**

134.50 **Extend measures to address the problem of hate speech, especially by ensuring effective investigations (Germany);**

134.51 **Continue to deepen awareness-raising measures on discrimination against asylum seekers and refugees, in particular through the investigation of cases of violence and xenophobic attacks against migrants (Argentina);**

134.52 **Adopt a comprehensive strategy to fight against all forms of racism and xenophobia (Algeria);**

134.53 **Continue maximum efforts to ensure freedom from discrimination for certain minorities, especially school age children and women (Uruguay);**

134.54 **Continue its endeavours to combat racism, including through establishing a national board against racism and intolerance (Egypt);**

134.55 **Take additional measures in combating racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and fully implement the applicable law (Armenia);**

134.56 **Continue its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance (Holy See);**

134.57 **Promote and develop laws to combat all forms of discrimination, racism and xenophobia (Lebanon);**

134.58 **Continue efforts to fight against racism and racial discrimination (Morocco);**

134.59 **Continue the efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia (Poland);**

134.60 **Continue to take further steps, with a view to combatting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and to implement the existing and newly adopted legislation (Romania);**

134.61 **Ensure full implementation of legislation aimed at combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (South Africa);**

134.62 **Work on increasing racial, ethnic and religious tolerance (Tajikistan);**

134.63 **Adopt a national plan to combat social exclusion and vulnerability of women belonging to Muslim communities, Roma women, migrants and women living in rural areas (Algeria);**

134.64 **Combat more actively the stereotypes and prejudices to which lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons are subject, organizing public awareness campaigns and ensuring that the perpetrators of acts of violence on the grounds of sexual orientation are prosecuted and punished (Chile);**

134.65 **Adopt measures to fight against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Israel);**

134.66 **Actively investigate instances of discrimination in employment, including against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (United States of America);**

134.67 **Improve the treatment of migrants, asylum seekers, Roma population and other marginalized groups by law enforcement officials (Albania);**

134.68 **Ensure in practice the accountability of law enforcement officers in cases of abuse (Belarus);**

134.69 **Prosecute and punish perpetrators of acts of torture in accordance with the law (Togo);**

134.70 **Continue with its efforts to avoid excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, in particular related to the policing of demonstrations and crowd control (Holy See);**

134.71 **Staff and operationalize the office established for handling alleged instances of abuses of law enforcers in order to address all alleged attacks and reports of ill treatment (Botswana);**

134.72 **Strengthen efforts to prevent torture, including through ensuring that the Office responsible for handling alleged instances of abuses as foreseen by Law 3938/2011 functions effectively and independently and with sufficient funding and staff (Czech Republic);**

134.73 **Ensure the mechanism for handling allegations of ill-treatment by law enforcement officials of members of marginalised groups, such as migrants, asylum-seekers and Roma, is made operational as soon as possible, and that its investigations are carried out in a prompt, thorough and impartial manner (Ireland);**

134.74 **Establish an effective and independent mechanism to register complaints filed against the Greek authorities and investigate the alleged violations (Switzerland);**

134.75 **Reduce overcrowding and ensure that prison conditions in Greece meet international human rights standards (Austria);**

134.76 **Take all necessary measures to improve the conditions in prisons and resolve the issue of prison overcrowding (France);**

134.77 **Extend the use of alternative detention measures as a step towards compliance with international standards of custody (Germany);**

134.78 **Continue to improve conditions of detention, including through appropriate assistance from regional and international partners (Jamaica);**

134.79 **Initiate a long-term awareness-raising campaign against domestic violence and its root causes among the general public as well as professionals such as medical doctors, judges and the police and monitor and evaluate regularly the implementation of the domestic violence law and policies in order to strengthen the remedies and legal protection available to victims of domestic violence (Czech Republic);**

134.80 **Accelerate the amendments to the relevant legal texts necessary to bring them into conformity with the National Programme on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women (Spain);**

134.81 **Place greater emphasis on sensitization and gather data disaggregated by age, gender and the relationship between victims and offenders in relation to gender-based violence (Spain);**

134.82 **Further strengthen measures aimed at preventing and combating domestic violence (Israel);**

134.83 **Establish systems for monitoring and gathering information with the view to prevent abuse and ill-treatment of children, as well as other situations of negligence or lack of adequate care (Mexico);**

134.84 **Take necessary steps for the implementation of the relevant legal and policy framework, with a view to combat effectively trafficking in persons, identifying victims, providing them with all the necessary assistance and support, and prosecuting traffickers (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

134.85 **Take necessary measures to strengthen identification, rehabilitation and social integration of victims of trafficking in human beings, including by providing them with shelter and assistance (Republic of Moldova);**

134.86 **Take necessary steps for the implementation of the relevant legal and policy framework to combat trafficking in persons, identifying victims and providing them with all necessary assistance and support (South Africa);**

134.87 **Continue the implementation of the appropriate legal and policy frameworks for the effective combatting of trafficking in persons (Tajikistan);**

134.88 **Implement measures to ensure more effective legal procedures and speedier resolution of legal cases (Norway);**

134.89 **Take the necessary measures to accelerate processing of court cases in respect of the right to access to justice and right to a fair trial (France);**

134.90 **Continue to reform its domestic child protection system in order to end institutional residential care and move towards a community based model (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

134.91 **Continue the efforts deployed by the Greek government to start the implementation of the alternative care program for children (Iraq);**

134.92 **Move towards deinstitutionalisation of all children by investing in and promoting family-based care facilities for children in line with the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (Slovakia);**

134.93 **Ensure religious freedom and tolerance, by measures such as decriminalizing blasphemy and protecting the rights of religious minorities, atheists and agnostics (Brazil);**

134.94 **Continue to implement policies which guarantee the effective right to freedom of religion for the Muslim minority of Thrace (Peru);**

134.95 **Continue its efforts to increase the participation of women in political life and in decision-making positions (Cuba);**

134.96 **Adopt and implement necessary legislative and administrative measures to promote the effective participation of women in the public and political life of the country (Mexico);**

134.97 **Continue to promote the right to work for all including through providing technical and vocational training for young people (Egypt);**

134.98 **Develop policies and programs to effectively implement the National Strategy for Social Inclusion (Indonesia);**

134.99 **Step up measures to mitigate the negative impacts of economic measures, with an emphasis on improving social protection systems and eradicating poverty (Malaysia);**

134.100 **Continue to take appropriate measures to protect the most vulnerable sectors and to preserve social cohesion, in the face of the huge social inequalities and ensure the enjoyment of basic goods and services for families living in conditions of poverty (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

134.101 Continue implementing the plan endorsed by the government in November 2014 aiming to help families and individuals living in conditions of extreme poverty (Bahrain);

134.102 Make every effort within its capacity to implement Law 4320/2015 to give people living in poverty access to basic goods and services (Libya);

134.103 Continue its efforts to mitigate the negative results of the economic crisis and the austerity measures that primarily affect the most disadvantaged groups of the population (Cuba);

134.104 Continue its efforts to mitigate the negative impacts of the economic crisis and austerity measures on the most disadvantaged segments of the population (Nepal);

134.105 Take further steps to mitigate the impact of the economic crisis and austerity measures on the social and economic rights of the most vulnerable groups of the society (Poland);

134.106 Continue to highlight during its negotiations with international creditors, the necessity to protect economic, social and cultural rights in the context of financial aid programme, in accordance with the obligations undertaken by Greece in international human rights conventions (Armenia);

134.107 Continue its efforts to mitigate the negative impact of the economic crisis on human rights and to urge the international lenders to support the Government's endeavours in this area (Egypt);

134.108 Continue to raise, in the negotiations with international lenders, the need to protect economic, social and cultural rights in the context of the national assistance program, bearing in mind that the institutions involved, including international financial institutions, should fully take into consideration Greece's obligations under the relevant human rights treaties (Islamic Republic of Iran);

134.109 Ensure equal access for girls and women to all levels of education in all regions (Republic of Korea);

134.110 Ensure sustainable and universal access to education for children, including children with disabilities and children living in remote areas (Malaysia);

134.111 Take concrete steps to end discrimination against persons with disabilities (Maldives);

134.112 Address the discrimination faced by persons with disabilities with regards to access to education, employment and healthcare (Ghana);

134.113 Further develop policies aiming for inclusive education and access to work for people with disabilities (Israel);

134.114 Intensify efforts to eliminate discrimination against persons with disabilities with a view to improving their access to employment, social services and education (Thailand);

134.115 Promote increased autonomy to persons with disabilities in the fields of health, employment and education as additional steps following the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Spain);

134.116 **Take steps to fully integrate Roma children in its education system, including by ending discrimination and segregation of Roma children in schools (Australia);**

134.117 **Further improve the access of minority groups, specially Roma and, in particular, Roma children and adolescents, to education (Brazil);**

134.118 **Take steps to end discrimination and segregation suffered by Roma children in the school system in accordance with its international obligations (Switzerland);**

134.119 **Fully implement the National Strategy for the Integration of the Roma to avoid discrimination against them and to increase their opportunity for education and employment (Honduras);**

134.120 **Continue to deepen the actions for the protection and promotion of the rights of the Roma (Argentina);**

134.121 **Intensify the actions which ensure the integration of the Roma community and their full enjoyment of human rights, in particular the rights to work and education (Peru);**

134.122 **Continue its work to safeguard full respect of human rights for, and non-discrimination of, the Roma population in Greece, in line with Greece's international obligations, and in doing so fully and effectively implement adopted strategies at all levels (Sweden);**

134.123 **Continue efforts towards gender equality, including ensuring effective review and control by domestic civil courts of inheritance and family matters determined by religious bodies for Muslim minority women in Thrace (Australia);**

134.124 **Continue the protection of the rights of migrants (Morocco);**

134.125 **Ensure full respect for the human rights of migrants (Nigeria);**

134.126 **Continue to protect the rights of migrants living in its territory (Senegal);**

134.127 **Supervise the working conditions of migrant workers effectively (Belarus);**

134.128 **Urgently strengthen the capacities of the Asylum Service (Austria);**

134.129 **Ensure adequate reception conditions so that asylum seekers receive support in line with the requirements of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and of European Union law (Austria);**

134.130 **Ensure that the refugee flows across its territory continue to be managed in accordance with the obligations of Greece in respect of human rights (Spain);**

134.131 **Pay particular priority for improving reception conditions for refugees and migrants and continue its efforts for a more efficient asylum procedure (Norway);**

134.132 **Ensure that the legislative and policy response to increases in irregular migration is consistent with international human rights and refugee law, particularly the principle of non-refoulement (Canada);**

134.133 Work for the amelioration of the situation of migrants, particularly with regard to access to, and quality of, the asylum procedure, as well as the conditions in detention centres, and to ensure that full respect for human rights of all migrants and protection is granted to refugees in line with Greece's international obligations (Sweden);

134.134 Maintain addressing the emerging situation of refugee influx and migratory pressures while continuing to ensure the necessary respect for human rights (Egypt);

134.135 Take further measures, both in terms of legislation and implemented policies, in order to ensure the respect for human rights of all migrants (Poland);

134.136 Ensure that the human rights of migrants, and migration policy and practice are fully respected by national legislation, and strengthen all efforts to implement the National Action Plan and Migration Management (Holy See);

134.137 Ensure that domestic legislation fully respects the human rights or refugees and migrants (Iceland);

134.138 Ensure that the authority tasked with the management of European Union funds, such as the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, commences operations as swiftly as possible (Iceland);

134.139 Accelerate efforts to provide effective structures for identification, care and accommodation to protect and support vulnerable migrant and refugee arrivals, including victims of torture, unaccompanied minors, and persons with disabilities (Ireland);

134.140 Continue to provide assistance and protect the rights of irregular migrants fleeing from conflict through partnerships at the regional and international level (Malaysia);

134.141 Ensure systematic provision of adequate information to all refugees and migrants arriving in Greece on asylum procedures, the European Union relocation scheme and family reunification possibilities (Namibia);

134.142 Ensure the most vulnerable asylum seekers and migrants — such as women who are pregnant or with young children, unaccompanied minors, and persons with disabilities — have access to basic services and safe, adequate living conditions, including by increasing shelter capacity (Canada);

134.143 In cooperation with other European nations and international organizations, work to improve resources, living conditions, and safety at migrant processing centres (United States of America);

134.144 Redouble efforts to ensure decent living conditions for migrants and asylum seekers in the reception centres (Costa Rica);

134.145 Continue to develop its national Asylum Service while paying special attention to human rights, to living conditions of reception facilities and to the needs of vulnerable groups (Finland);

134.146 Continue to reinforce strategies to avoid the prolonged stay of migrants, particularly unaccompanied minors, in centres without the necessary care infrastructure (Mexico);

134.147 Take measures, together with her international partners, to increase shelter capacity for asylum-seekers and unaccompanied children (Namibia);

134.148 Continue efforts to ensure decent living conditions in all reception and detention centres for migrants and asylum seekers by providing adequate healthcare services, food, sanitary conditions and access to transportation (Timor-Leste);

134.149 Ensure decent living conditions in all reception and detention centres for migrants and asylum seekers by providing adequate services (Uganda);

134.150 Give necessary attention to the safety of migrants and international staff deployed in the reception centres on the Greek islands (Belgium);

134.151 Take measures to improve the monitoring, identification and care of unaccompanied minors who arrive in the country (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

134.152 Establish and adequately resource a well-functioning guardianship and care system for unaccompanied minor refugees or asylum seekers (Norway);

134.153 Consider assigning full authority to a body to supervise issues relevant to the protection of unaccompanied immigrant minors in coordination with other agencies (Panama);

134.154 Undertake measures to improve the legislative base with the aim of increasing the effectiveness of institutions providing guardianship to unaccompanied children (Russian Federation).

135. The following recommendations enjoy the support of Greece, which considers that they are already implemented:

135.1 Accede to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Senegal);

135.2 Include human rights education in the curriculum of schools (Maldives);

135.3 Revise its Law 3005/2006 on Combating Domestic Violence to address the issue of marital rape, to prohibit physical violence against minors and facilitate legal procedure for victims (Thailand).

136. The following recommendations will be examined by Greece, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-third session of the Human Rights Council, in September 2016:

136.1 Consider ratification of ILO Convention 189 (Philippines);

136.2 Ratify and domesticate ILO Convention on Domestic Workers No. 189 (Kenya);

136.3 Ratify the Protocol No. 12 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of the Council of Europe (Hungary) (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);

136.4 Ratify the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);

136.5 Intensify the work aimed at the ratification of the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, signed by Greece in 1997 (Hungary);

136.6 Make fully operational the National Observatory for the rights of children and clearly define its coordinating role (Togo);

136.7 **Ensure that its policies, legislation, regulations and enforcement measures effectively serve to prevent and address the heightened risk of business involvement in abuses in conflict situations, which includes situations of foreign occupation (State of Palestine);**

136.8 **Take legislative measures to curtail hate speech, not only by extremists but also by the mainstream media and public figures, as there has been an increase in hate-motivated crimes against refugees, migrants and minorities, including hate crimes affecting religious and ethnic minorities (Pakistan);**

136.9 **Take additional effective measures to combat racist crimes targeting migrants and Roma especially in the areas of employment, education, health and housing (Qatar);**

136.10 **Actively investigate and condemn instances of discrimination against non-citizens and members of religious and ethnic minority groups, and condemn anti-Semitic statements made by public officials (United States of America);**

136.11 **Take steps towards full legal recognition of same-sex relationships; this includes registered partnership, fiscal partnership, and marriage and the possibility to adopt children (Netherlands);**

136.12 **Establish an independent mechanism for the investigation of allegations of torture by police officers in order to ensure that police detention remains subject to rigid time limits and judicial review by a court (Albania);**

136.13 **Adopt legislative measures to prohibit the detention of minors and to decriminalize child begging (Costa Rica);**

136.14 **Fulfil its long-standing pledge for constructing a mosque in Athens, and open one of the historical mosques in Thessaloniki to worship, as well as allocating a cemetery for Muslims in both cities (Turkey);**

136.15 **Review the current legislation with a view to recognizing an alternative to military service, which is accessible to all conscientious objectors and is not punitive or discriminatory (Uruguay);**

136.16 **Consider changes in legislation and practice in order to ensure that individuals who express conscientious objection to compulsory military service on the grounds of freedom of thought, conscience, disability, and/or religion do not face harassment or prosecution, and that they have the opportunity to perform civilian service of equal length to the one of military service (Slovenia);**

136.17 **Decriminalize defamation and place it within a civil code that is in accordance with international standards (Ghana);**

136.18 **Undertake accurate measures to register associations of distinct communities, including those claiming minority group status (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

136.19 **Recognize the Roma as a minority and continue to improve the standards in housing, education and health care (Germany);**

136.20 **Set appropriate quotas to accelerate the equal representation of women in all areas of public life (Costa Rica);**

136.21 **Adopt measures to increase the representation of women in positions of responsibility in the legislative and executive organs, setting specific deadlines for this (Chile);**

136.22 **Review its legislation to ensure all forms of hatred against minorities are prohibited by law (Republic of Korea);**

136.23 **Take measures to increase the attendance rates of Roma students and their retention in school by, inter alia, providing sufficient comprehensive measures to cover education-related expenses and raising awareness of the importance of education among Roma families (State of Palestine);**

136.24 **Limit the use of detention of asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons (Norway);**

136.25 **Redouble efforts to implement the National Plan of Action on the Management of Asylum and Migration and establish a mechanism for automatic judicial review of expulsion orders (Honduras);**

136.26 **Prohibit the detention of unaccompanied children in law and end it in practice, and increase shelter capacity for unaccompanied children seeking asylum (Belgium).**

137. **The recommendations below did not enjoy the support of Greece and would thus be noted:**

137.1 **Consider the possibility of acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt);**

137.2 **Consider ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines);**

137.3 **Accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Senegal);**

137.4 **Accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Turkey);**

137.5 **Ratify and domesticate the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Kenya);**

137.6 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Algeria) (Timor-Leste) (Chile);**

137.7 **Consider accession to the Internat'onal Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

137.8 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Uruguay) (Ecuador) (Guatemala) (Ghana) (Honduras);**

137.9 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and revise the national laws and regulations to ensure full protection against forced labour for all categories of workers, and ensure effective oversight of labour conditions (Albania);**

137.10 **Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Slovenia);**

137.11 **Consider accession to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (Hungary);**

137.12 **Take result-oriented measures for eliminating discrimination and hate speech against migrants, Muslims and the members of the Turkish Muslim minority (Turkey);**

137.13 **Take meaningful steps to guarantee in practice the equal and effective enjoyment of culture, profession and practice of religion and use of language by all persons, including those claiming to belong to ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities (Albania);**

137.14 **Take necessary steps for recognizing the Muftis elected by the Turkish Muslim minority and repealing the relevant articles of the Law 3536/2007 (Turkey);**

137.15 **Amend relevant articles of the Law on Foundations and allow the Turkish Muslim minority to have full power over the control and supervision of its foundations (Turkey);**

137.16 **Execute the European Court of Human Rights judgments passed in 2008 about the applications of three minority associations, outlawed on grounds that they had the word "Turkish" in their names (Turkey);**

137.17 **Take effective measures for the recognition of all minorities in order to fully protect their rights, their language, religion, culture and identity (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

137.18 **Redouble its effort in order to fully observe the Committee on the Rights of the Child's concern at persistent discrimination against Roma children, children of Turkish origin and children from groups identifying themselves (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);**

137.19 **Initiate procedures for the opening of Turkish-Greek bilingual kindergartens, as well as new bilingual minority schools in line with the current needs of the minority (Turkey);**

137.20 **Consider implementing effectively the national action plan for migrants without prejudice to their status by decriminalization of irregular migration situation (Bangladesh);**

137.21 **Apply dignified and humanitarian treatment, which respects the universal principles of human rights, to refugees in the detention centres, with measures such as ending immediate deportations at sea and land borders, the deportations and arrests of migrant children and refugees and the greatest possible protection for unaccompanied children (Ecuador);**

137.22 **Introduce and implement further programs and policies focusing on the integration of migrants and national minorities into the Greek society (Ukraine);**

137.23 **Set up a comprehensive long-term strategy for refugees and migrants, and prevent the violation of the principle of non-refoulement/forced return (Qatar);**

137.24 **Reinstate the citizenship of about 60,000 Greek nationals under the repealed Article 19 of the Greek Citizenship Code (Turkey).**

138. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Greece was headed by Mr. Kostis Papaioannou, Secretary-General for Transparency and Human Rights and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Ioannis Tsaoussis, Charge d'Affaires a.i., Counsellor of Embassy, Permanent Representation of Greece (Geneva)
- Mr. Elias Kastanas, Legal Counsellor, Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ms. Elissavet Chatzimichalarou, Expert Minister Counsellor, Human Rights Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ms. Maria Ververidou, Expert Minister Counsellor, Office of National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ms. Maria Stavropoulou, Director, Asylum Service, Ministry of the Interior and Administrative Reconstruction (Migration Policy)
- Mr. Michail Manoussakis, Secretary of Embassy, Permanent Representation of Greece (Geneva)
- Ms. Maria Rossidi, Special advisor to the Secretary-General, Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights
- Mr. Andreas Karageorgos, Police Major, Hellenic Police HQ, Border Protection Division, Ministry of the Interior and Administrative Reconstruction (Citizens' Protection)
- Mr. Eleftherios Lemonis, Police Lieutenant, Hellenic Police HQ, Illegal Migration Control Division, Ministry of the Interior and Administrative Reconstruction (Citizens' Protection)
- Ms. Georgia Papageorgiou, Head of Section for European and International Cooperation, Ministry of the Interior and Administrative Reconstruction (General Secretariat for Gender Equality)
- Ms. Aikaterini Toura, European and International Affairs Department, Ministry of Education, Research and Religion
- Ms. Evangelia Zerva, Rapporteur, International Affairs Department, Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity
- Ms. Chrysanthi Kantziou, Department of Administrative Service and Support, Ministry of Health
- Mr. Stylianos Kourkoulis, Commander (HCG), Head of Integrated Maritime Surveillance Bureau, Ministry of Maritime and Island Policy.